

Air Quality Advisory Plan

The [Specify Local Government], recognizing the impact of ground level ozone and fine particulates on human health and property, agrees to implement, where feasible, the following plans and best management practices to reduce air pollution in [Specify City/County] and to provide an effective response to regional air quality advisories. The Air Quality Advisory Plan shall be in effect during the Ozone Season, May 1-September, 30.

Part One: Air Quality Advisory Strategy

This strategy recommends activities that staff can put into practice during ozone season. They are either interim or one-time actions set in place to reduce the immediate harmful health effects of poor air quality.

1.1 Adopt and Apply an Air Quality Advisory Policy

- a. Develop an **Air Quality Advisory Plan**, including establishing a protocol for receiving and distributing Air Quality Advisories from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control-Bureau of Air Quality.
- b. Post air quality alerts in public areas, in employee breakrooms, on website, and through interoffice electronic mail communications to help educate employees about ways they can help to reduce air pollution.
- c. Implement a Local Government Response Plan during the ozone season *[or only for ozone action days that are predicted to be code orange, red, or purple]* that reduces and/or temporarily prohibits or postpones the following local government activities: *[if not prohibited, postpone until after 10:00 am]*
 - Pesticide spraying
 - Use of gasoline powered equipment including gas mowers, weed cutters, leaf blowers etc.
 - Use of tractors, backhoes, bulldozers and other two-cycle engines
 - Use of oil-based paints, solvents and other volatile organic compounds-emitting products
 - Street sweeping
 - Refueling vehicles during daylight hours (before 10 am or after 6 pm is preferable)
 - Road re-surfacing activities

(In case of emergency operations, some of these prohibitions may not apply)

1.2 Reduce Vehicle Use by [Local Government] Staff

- a. Offer reduced/eliminated public transit fares on days when the Air Quality Index is predicted to be 80 ppb or more.

- b. Encourage cycling and walking to work by endorsing “Casual Dress” days on Ozone Action Days.
- c. Make storage equipment and changing facilities available in the work place for cyclists and walkers.
- d. Permit employees to work flexible hours or to telecommute
- e. Encourage employees to carpool or rideshare
- f. Consider alternative meeting times or schedules. *[schedule external meetings after 10:00 am or hold meetings by conference call during ozone season.]*

Part Two: Air Quality Improvement Strategy

This section sets out long term goals and best management practices which may be successful in maintaining and improving [specify Local Government] ambient air quality, thus reducing the number of Ozone Action days throughout the summer season.

2.1 Transportation Initiatives

- a. Develop and implement **incentives** to encourage [Local Government] staff and the general public to use public transportation and carpooling on a year round basis (e.g. Commuter Challenge).
- b. Establish a program to **increase awareness** of the air quality benefits of public transit aimed at increasing ridership. Examples include: media advertising (radio, newspaper, television, billboards, bus boards, benches, bus shelters, etc.)

2.2 Adopt or Enhance a “FleetSmart” Policy for Municipal Fleet Vehicles

- a. Ensure that all fleet vehicles and motorized equipment are maintained at peak efficiency, are replaced with more efficient vehicles, use clean burning fuels thus applying the most recent and proven technology.
- b. Establish a schedule of refueling fleet vehicles before 10:00 am or after 6:00 pm during the ozone season to reduce the emission of volatile organic compounds during sunlight hours.
- c. Develop, implement and enforce a local government protocol that limits idling of local government vehicles when not in use.
- d. Promote best practices for fuel-efficient operation of fleet vehicles and equipment through employee training workshops and onsite information.

2.3 Tree Planting and Naturalization

Increase naturalized areas for all public lands in order to reduce municipal maintenance by motorized vehicles and reduce the use of pesticides. Develop incentives for residents to replace trees that have to be removed and encourage tree planting for all private and public developments.

2.4 Employ a Monitoring Tool that the [Local Government] can use to track activities and changes in behavior as a result of these clean air initiatives